



BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk – Angela Balcombe

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Minutes of a meeting of Birch Parish Council, held on
Tuesday 7 March 2023, 7.30pm at Birch Memorial Hall.

Present: Cllrs: *Bowtle, Boyce, Campion, Harris, Ninnim & Windsor.*
In the Chair: Cllr *Bowtle.*
Clerk: Angela *Balcombe.*
Also present: Cllr *Bentley.*

23/66. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

23/67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

No apologies were received.

23/68. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of 7 February 2023 were approved as a correct record of events.

Proposed: Cllr Campion. Seconded: Cllr Windsor. All agreed.

23/69. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests on any matters covered by this agenda. No interests were declared.

23/70. REPORTS.

Essex County Council (ECC)

Colchester City Council (CCC)

Cllr Bentley met the King and Queen Consort when they visited Colchester on 7 March as part of the Year of Celebration to mark the first year as a modern city.

Cllr Bentley gave a brief report including information on the precept which will increase by 3.5%, two thirds of the budget goes towards social care. The Birch Solar Farm planning application will be heard on 16 March, Cllrs Bentley and Ellis will represent residents at this meeting in their objections to the proposed application. Extra money would be going into the Member Led Scheme to include sections of pavements as well as potholes. The trial booking service for the Recycling Centre will be for nine months, the reason for the trial is to make sure there is no misuse of the site and to reduce congestion/queuing.

23/71. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

There were no members of the public present.

23/72. PROGRESS CHECK.

- Erection of Double Garage, Brambles, 4 Birch Street regarding the container.
Reply from CCC Planning Enforcement (circulated).

23/73. PLANNING.

Application No: 230310. Proposed single storey cart lodge.

Location: Meads, Maldon Road, Birch CO2 0LT. No objections.

Application No: 230329. Two storey side and part two storey part single storey rear extension, addition of porch and dormer windows.

Location: 10 Birch Street, Birch CO2 0NF. No objections.

Application No: 230350. Application for a ground mount solar PV system with the capacity to generate up to 20kWp.

Location: Conduit Farm, Birch Park CO2 0LS. No objections.

Application No: 230490 Listed Building. Building B, formation of 2 no bedroom to first & sub division of ground floor, Building C, sub division of ground floor.

Location: Farmhouse Barns, Shemmings Farmhouse, Hardys Green CO2 0NY. No objections.

23/74. COLCHESTER CC BIN EMPTYING AGREEMENT 2023/24.

The total annual cost for 2023/24 has increased from £1,473.42 (2022/23) to £2,047.50. It was agreed to check the costs to see if it made a significant difference just to pay for the bin emptying and to let the Council know that volunteers litter pick and collect an average of nine bags of rubbish every month.

23/75. FINANCE.

Payments made / money received:

101844 £449.24 A Balcombe (Salary/Office Expenses)

Income £25,000.00 Enovert Energy (Grant for Play Area)

23/76. SECTION 106 MONIES - COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN BIRCH.

The footpath outside the school cannot be funded but Village Hall improvements can, examples are new energy efficient lighting, solar panels or an electric car charging facility. It was agreed to ask for an upgrade to the heating system (currently oil) and lighting (upgrade to LED lights). It was also agreed to consider an electric charging point.

23/77. CORRESPONDENCE.

Essex Police - Rural Crime Open Day, 10 March 2023 at Layer Marney Tower, 1pm - 3pm. Various police teams will be represented, including the Rural Engagement Team.

Colchester Association of Local Councils - next meeting Thursday 9 March 2023, 7pm by Zoom.

Colchester City Council - the Council is consulting on the Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Consultation will run from 22 February – 22 March 2023.

39th Jock Wadley Memorial Road Race - 11am Sunday 12 March 2023.

23/78. PARISH COUNCILLOR REPORTS / NEXT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY.

Cllr Ninnim 48 bags of rubbish was collected during February. Work to renovate the Play Area has started and will take around three weeks to complete.

Cllr Harris updated the Council on the procedure to get a 20mph limit, this will go through the Local Highways Panel (LHP) at no cost to the Parish Council.

Residents to be consulted, their replies to be sent to a dedicated email address.
Cllr Harris also updated the Council on the 20's Plenty Campaign.

- Missing sign posts and potholes to be reported via essexhighways.org, agreed it was useful to use 'what three words' as an accurate way to report any Highway issues.

23/79. MEETING DATES 2023.

4 April, 2 May (Annual Meetings), 6 June, 4 July, 5 September, 3 October,
7 November (Budget Meeting), 5 December.

The meeting closed at 20.19 pm.

SIGNED (CHAIRMAN):

DATE: